

FISH STOCKING PROPOSAL

Region E

PROPOSAL: Stock F1 fall fingerling brook trout in Big Greenwood Pond (0884). We would initiate the stocking at a rate of 10 fish/acre (2,100 ff BKT).

LOCATION: Elliotsville Plt., Piscataquis County.

CHARACTERISTICS: Big Greenwood Pond is 211 acres with a maximum depth of 109 feet. There is sufficient oxygen to support coldwater gamefish at all depths. The shoreline is very rocky and steep in many locations. The pond is lightly developed.

NATURAL REPRODUCTION: There is good habitat for lake trout spawning in the southeast corner of the pond. There is one small tributary (the outlet from Little Greenwood) that contains a minimal amount of brook trout spawning habitat.

EXISTING/HISTORICAL SPORT FISHERIES: The pond is managed for wild lake trout. We have carried it as a principal fishery for brook trout but have never really done much work to evaluate it until recently. We trapnetted the pond in 2011 and found good numbers of lake trout but just a few individual brook trout. We also conducted a spot check creel survey in the winter of 2012 and we did not observe any brook trout. We spoke to many anglers and campowners and they reported that brook trout were only occasionally caught at Big Greenwood Pond. We suspect some of these “brook trout” were actually splake (or brook trout- historically stocked) dropping downstream from Little Greenwood since we did take several splake in our sampling. There is support from the anglers for stocking brook trout again. We gillnetted the shoreline of the pond in the spring of 2011 and again in the spring of 2013 specifically targeting brook trout to determine if we should keep the principal fishery designation and we did not take any brook trout.

COMPETITION FROM OTHER SPECIES: This pond has very few competitors for brook trout. There are no perch or bass present. White suckers and fallfish are present but not abundant.

USE OF SPORT FISHERY: The pond is open both summer and winter, but use is very light. We conducted flights in the winter of 1990 and estimated 236 angler days. We also have warden counts from the 1970s and 1980s in which winter use estimates ranged from around 100- 400 angler days. Based on the spot checks made in the winter of 2012, current use is at the low end of this range.

ACCESS: Winter: There is a local snowmobile trail that leads to Big Greenwood Pond from Sebec Lake and other neighboring locations. Someone also keeps a parking area cleared along the Onawa Road. Anglers often park and walk onto the pond from this parking area.

Summer: There is a hand-carry trail near the railroad tracks that is steep and suitable for canoes only. There was a public boat launch on the southwest shore of the small basin but it is steep and rough and ownership is now in question since the town de-organized. We met with representatives of Elliottsville Plantation Inc. last summer and have identified a location on their property that would be suitable for a new improved launch. There are some unresolved questions regarding right-of-way but we hope to have that resolved in the next year. To be clear, we will not move forward with stocking, if approved, until a new summer access site is secured.

OTHER SPECIES PRESENT: BND, CCB, CMS, EEL, FLF, LKT, NRD, PKS, RBS, RWF, SLT, and WHS.

BACKGROUND DATA:

Gillnetting:

6/21/11: 2 - 200' GN at 6-41 feet overnight. No BKT taken.

5/28/13: 5- 200' GN sets 9-22 feet for a total of 7 hrs. No BKT taken

Trapnetting: 10/20/11 – 11/02/11 – 3 trapnets: 5 BKT, 82 LKT, 4 SPK.

Winter spot check: 7 checks from January through March and did not see any BKT on the ice. Use was very light. Clerk survey summary W'12 (incomplete and complete combined):

Parties: 13

Total Anglers: 41

Total Hrs: 169

BKT Kept: 1

BKT rel: 1

LKT kept: 3

LKT rel: 2

We suspect the trout reported in the winter of 2012 may actually have been splake based on the interviews.

We do have some voluntary data from the 1980s but the anglers were primarily togue fishermen. They reported catching just 8 brook trout from 1986-2002. We were stocking brook trout heavily in Little Greenwood during most of this period.

STOCKING HISTORY: The pond was stocked with brook trout in the 1930's and in 1960, 1973, and 1994. The pond was stocked with lake trout from the 1930's through the 1950's.

REGULATIONS: Currently, B. S-4, S-8, S-19, S-25. We are not proposing any regulation changes at this time.

POSSIBLE EFFECTS: The purpose of this proposal is to expand fishing opportunity in the southern part of our region. There are no native brook trout waters in this drainage that stocked fish from Big Greenwood Pd would have access to. Waters that are connected with no known fish impasses include:

Little Greenwood Pd: Active SPK stocking program.

Mud Greenwood Pd: Shallow, no coldwater fishery present.

Onawa Lake: Managed for wild brook trout and salmon, and extensive BKT stocking history. Not on Heritage Fish list.

Sebec Lake: BKT not a principal fishery. Many other waters in this drainage are stocked with BKT.

Big Benson Pd: Outlet is steep, and likely an impasse. This pond is on the Heritage list. As noted above, Onawa Lake has been heavily stocked with BKT in the past.

EVALUATION: Periodic gillnetting and voluntary books will be the primary tools for evaluating the program with the occasional trapnetting and winter spot check effort.

